



arts news

south northamptonshire

issue 31 January to April 2009

FUNDING · INFORMATION · PROMOTION · OPPORTUNITIES · ARTS PROGRAMMES · VISUAL ARTS · PERFORMING ARTS · ARTS IN EDUCATION

Promoting arts activity by and for the residents of South Northamptonshire.

For arts organisations, individuals, community groups, and all those who wish to have access to or get involved in arts activity in and around South Northamptonshire.

If you would like to join the free mailing list or have information that you would like included in future editions please contact:

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Arts News is also available as a PDF by email or to download from www.southnorthants.gov.uk If you would prefer to receive Arts News electronically, please email sue.carverhill@southnorthants.gov.uk Additional news and information is sent by email in between publications to those who are interested. For more countywide information, **Artyfacts** (events and general info) and **Northants Arts News** (courses, jobs, funding, arts in education, useful contacts and opportunities for practitioners), can be downloaded each month from:

<http://www.northantsartsdevelopment.co.uk/> or email srichardson@northamptonshire.gov.uk to request.

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New gallery and artists' studio open in Brackley & Culworth

Rowans Gallery opened its doors on 15th November 2008 in Market House Courtyard, Brackley, near the Town Hall. The evening was a huge success with the gallery showcasing some of the area's best local artists. There are now sixteen member artists and crafts makers exhibiting and selling their work through the gallery, offering a unique selection of work including original and limited editions of landscapes, figurative and nautical paintings and drawings; ceramics; sculpture; contemporary stained glass; silver and glass, jewellery and so much more...



Visit www.rowansgallery.co.uk for details of the artists and their work, phone Sally Rowan on 01280 840979 or email enquiries@rowansgallery.co.uk.

Several of the artists give both individual and group tuition, hold workshops and give demonstrations. The next is a fabric craft workshop in Greatworth on 14th February and there will be others at Easter. Details of this and future events in the workshop section of the website. The artists are enjoying being part of a community and opportunities to interact with the public.

Forge2 is a collaboration of five local artists and craftswomen: Clare Eguchi, Chris Wiggins, Debbie McCullough, Lindsey Fox and Cassie Francis. They opened their premises in Culworth on 22nd November, with a fine display of professional artists' work in various media. The launch was well timed for pre-Christmas interest, attracting about 250 people. **Forge2** members announced:

Our idea was to create an open studio where each of us could work in the company of like-minded artists. Reborn from the buildings of the Culworth Forge, Forge2 is the latest reincarnation of a well known local landmark. It's a place where we can exchange ideas and follow new creative directions, fuelled by the energy of kindred spirits.

Of course, we all love the satisfaction that comes when someone expresses the ultimate compliment to our creativity and actually buys a piece of our work. So why not operate as a gallery too? And, given the wealth of local talent, why not open our space to other artists as well? Why not host an exhibition of other people's work from time to time? We could create a focal point for those with an interest in the arts to get together now and again and share our passion for the creative side of life!

If there is as much local enthusiasm for the arts as we believe, we could even complete the circle. We could arrange the odd workshop with visiting tutors. We know that we enjoy learning new skills and techniques. We're sure that our friends would enjoy that too. Even the occasional talk about the history of art, or specialist fields like photography, or sculpture, would complement the mix.

So that's the idea and so far it is proving successful, so do visit, to see **Forge2** for yourself and tell the artists what you think. For further information, phone Debbie McCullough on 07736 707316.



Towcester Camera Club

Exhibiting at Towcester Library throughout January. Members are a friendly, enthusiastic band of camera users with all levels of ability and a common aim: to enjoy our cameras whilst sharing and learning from each other. Membership is open to anyone who has an interest in photography.



You don't even have to own a camera. If you are already an accomplished photographer you might like to share your photographs and ideas with other like-minded people. Maybe you are new to photography and want to learn more about ways to improve your skills, or maybe you are looking for a new and challenging interest. Whichever stage in the journey you are at, you will be made most welcome at one of our club nights, either as a visitor or as a prospective member. **We meet every other Wednesday**, 8-10pm in the Methodist Meeting Room, Bradden Road, Greens Norton. For more information please look at www.towcestercameraclub.co.uk or contact the Chairman, Bob Brind-Surch, tel 01327 352505.

Paulerspury Players

18th – 21st February, Paulerspury Players' 20th pantomime will be *Jack & The Beanstalk* by the well-loved and very funny author, John Morley. We have decided to return to a very traditional style of show for this important anniversary edition. If you'd like to be part of the show by helping front of house or backstage, give your name and contact details

to Mary Antcliff (Production Manager) as soon as possible. Telephone 01908 543219 or contact via our website: www.paulerspuryplayers.org.uk

Tove Quilters, who recently celebrated their 10th Anniversary, are embarking upon an exciting programme of stitching that includes workshops in box making, Hawaiian appliqué and contemporary quilting to name but a few. The group meets in Towcester each Wednesday between 7:30 and 9:30pm during term time and sometimes just sit, sew and of course chat. Anyone who would like to join the group should telephone Barbara on 01327 353141 or Joyce on 01327 857703.

Kislingbury Art and Craft Society

meets monthly on Tuesdays at Kislingbury Village Hall, 8pm. New members very welcome. Contact Doreen Hartwell, 01604 831824.

Not listed? Send details for future issues to sue.carverhill@southnorthants.gov.uk

Northampton Literature Group Open Poetry Competition 2009

Two categories: Free Verse (Category A) and Rhyming Poetry (Category B) each with prizes of £150, £50 and £25 and highly commended £10. Judge: Alison Chisholm. Closing date is May 30th 2009. Entry forms can be downloaded from the NLG Website www.northamptonliteraturegroup.org.uk or send an SAE to Pat Archer, 7 Cattle Hill, Great Billing, Northampton, NN3 9DU or email tricia.archer@tiscali.co.uk.

Opportunities

Free theatre tickets for young people at Royal & Derngate and Milton Keynes Theatre

Young people in South Northants can take advantage of a scheme offering free theatre tickets, starting in February. The two main theatres serving the north and south of the district have both been awarded grants to offer free theatre tickets to young people under 26 years old in 2009, as part of an initiative to encourage a new generation of arts attenders. Arts Council England announced that **Royal & Derngate** in Northampton and the **Milton Keynes Theatre** were two of 99 successful applicants nationwide, taking part in a pilot scheme supported by £2.5 million additional funding to the Arts Council's core grant from the DCMS. Attendance at arts events traditionally drops in the 18-26 age range and so this initiative to reach new audiences is specifically targeted at young adults and their families.

Royal & Derngate will be providing 100 free tickets a week for young people aged under 26 to attend drama in its Royal auditorium, which celebrates its 125th birthday in 2009. The free theatre scheme will go live across the country on **16th February**, with a week of special activities at all participating venues. To celebrate the launch, Royal & Derngate will be hosting a series of events throughout

the week linked to their co-production with Kneehigh Theatre of the West End hit *Brief Encounter*. Aimed specifically at teenagers and young adults, these events will include physical theatre workshops and tours of Royal & Derngate's backstage and workshop areas, as well as opportunities to meet members of the cast, creative team and venue staff.

Details of how to get involved and how to apply for the free tickets across the year will be announced in the New Year, along with a schedule of shows and performances for which free tickets will be available. To be among the first to know more, email freetickets@royalandderngate.co.uk to register your interest.

Elizabeth Adlington, Chief Executive of **Milton Keynes Theatre** said "We are thrilled to have been selected as a venue for free theatre ticket funding. This innovative scheme fully supports our existing commitment to reach young people in our community through our creative learning programmes and the reduced price schemes already in place. Importantly, it also helps to encourage a new generation to attend the theatre."

Further info:

www.miltonkeynestheatre.com and www.royalandderngate.co.uk.

A dedicated web site will be launched in the New Year, providing details of venues in your area and direct links to book free tickets. Look out for information and grab the opportunity!

Funding Information

Northamptonshire Community Foundation offer funding for community groups and projects all over the county. For more information on available grants and deadlines please visit <http://www.ncf.uk.com>

Department for Culture, Media & Sport – Guide to Arts Funding in England visit: www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Publications/archive_2007

Arts Council England, East Midlands - Grants for the Arts assessment workshops: Applying for funding. **20th January**, 5:30 - 7:30pm at The Castle, Castle Way, Wellingborough, NN8 1XA (www.thecastle.org.uk) – the only venue for a Northants workshop. Check availability of places and book on 0115 989 7534

Grants for the Arts assessment workshops are for artists and arts organisations in the region to gain advice about applying for funding, aimed at artists in every stage of their careers and from every art form. These workshops have been designed to help applicants who have either got to the point of preparing their application in draft format or would like to find out more details about applying for funding for a particular activity.

For more information on Grants for the Arts scheme, visit www.artscouncil.org.uk. To book a workshop or find out more about the programme contact Cheryl Gill - Assistant Officer for Audience Development and Diversity or Mira Arya - Assistant Officer Visual Arts and Literature who will be happy to help you with your enquiry. Email Cheryl.Gill@artscouncil.org.uk or mira.arya@artscouncil.org.uk or phone 0115 989 7534.

The Big Screen at a venue near you!

Rural touring cinema comes to Northamptonshire with Centre Screen

Can't face the trek to your nearest Multiplex, but would love to see films with your friends on a large screen? Centre Screen may have the answer.

Centre Screen is a scheme that uses portable digital cinema equipment to provide film screenings at suitable venues in areas where cinema might otherwise not be available. Centre Screen can offer the opportunity to turn a local hall into a temporary cinema so that the community can enjoy films, old and new, at a friendly nearby venue.

The Project has been running in Leicestershire and Rutland for over 5 years and is now launching in Northamptonshire. For a fee of £80 (raised through ticket sales) plus 50% of the remaining box office profits, Centre Screen will assist you in setting up a film night. We will provide the film and a projectionist who will deliver, install and operate the equipment.

As a Centre Screen promoter you would choose the film, book the venue, publicise the screening, sell tickets and host the event. You can choose from a wide range of films including recent releases, classic cinema, musicals, international films and archive material. Centre Screen staff are happy to offer advice on film selection, if needed.

Equally as much a social event as it is a cinema screening; regular film nights have become a favourite date on many community calendars.

If you would like to be the person to get the reel rolling in your community, we would love to hear from you.

For more information about the scheme and to discuss potential for your community please contact Anna Hayward, Co-ordinator for Centre Screen Northamptonshire, via email: anna.hayward@phoenix.org.uk or telephone: 07500 928111. Alternatively write to Centre Screen - Northamptonshire, c/o Phoenix, 21 Upper Brown Street, Leicester, LE1 5TE and we will contact you.

Centre Screen - Northamptonshire is managed by Phoenix Independent Cinema in Leicester and is supported by EM-Media (UK Film Council), Northamptonshire County Council and a number of District/Borough Councils, including South Northants Council.



Arts Courses

Learn something musical...

Fiori Musicali - music appreciation evenings continue at Caroline Chisholm School at Wootton. Want to know more about classical music and aren't ask? Join Dr Penelope Rapson for informal evening workshops that take you further into the world of music and are fun. No previous musical knowledge is required. 01327 360931 www.fiori-musicali.com

...arty or literary...

NCC Adult Learning Service - 01327 237418

<http://www2.northamptonshire.gov.uk/termsweb/AvailableCoursesList.Asp>

Art classes with Sonia Hawes: Painting for All – Towcester, 10 sessions; Life drawing - Paulerspury 17 Jan & 14 March

Sculpture with Pam Foley: Farthinghoe, 10 sessions; Plaster Weekends 7 & 8 March and 18 & 19 April; Drawing for the Figure Sun 29 March

Drawing & Painting with Kathleen Bartlett: Aynho and Croughton, 10 sessions

Writing for Pleasure & Profit with Sonia Hawes: Brackley and Towcester

Chenderit School, Middleton Cheney Evening classes on Tuesdays in Pottery, Digital Photography, Painting and Drawing. 7-9pm 13th Jan – 24th March. Visit www.chenderit.northants.sch.uk for details. Bookings: 01295 711567. 10 weeks £50 (concessions £40).

Workers' Educational Association Courses this Spring in South Northants (further info on www.wea.org.uk) include:

The detective in fiction. Tutor Peter Leyland at Weston.

Contact G Jones 01327 281265

Artists of Southern England. Tutor Bill Prescott at Weston.

Contact G Jones 01327 281265

Heritage Houses: furniture history. Tutor Judith Hodgkinson at Canons Ashby House.

Contact R Dibben 01788 890515

Learn2b aims to enhance wellbeing groups for people suffering from stress, anxiety, low mood, or recovering from emotional distress, offering a choice of non-medical interventions that are educational, fun and relaxed. There will be a number of activities in South Northamptonshire, including short courses in writing your memoirs, short stories, poetry and whatever else you are interested in, starting mid-January. For more information contact Sonya Terry, Learn2b Project Manager, Changing Minds, Mobile X03, University of Northampton, Park Campus, Boughton Green Road, Northampton NN2 7AL; email: sonya.terry@northants.nhs.uk, office tel: 01604 893459, mobile: 07768 215507.

Stories, rhymes, music & movement for under fives

with parents/carers, offered free through SureStart and Northamptonshire County Council Library Services in Brackley & Towcester

KidStory

Want your children to hear their favourite books and maybe some new ones read aloud? Super Storyteller Gilly Tompkins welcomes you to come along and join in the fun! Every Tuesday afternoon (term time only) 2.15–2.45pm at Brackley Children's Centre, Brackley Library. Tel. 01280 841674

Music & Movement

NEW – with Gilly Tompkins. Wednesdays 1.45–2.30pm Brackley W.I. Hall, Manor Road. Phone to check dates: 01280 841674

CRAFTY PLAY

Creative activities & play for parents and children aged 2 to 5 years. Fridays 1.30–2.45pm at Brackley Baptist Church, Waynflete Avenue. Book through the Children's Centre or phone 01280 841674

RHYMETIMES

Brackley Children's Centre, Brackley Library, Thursdays from 8th Jan 2.15–2.45pm.

Towcester Library 10-10.30am and 10.45-11.15am on Fridays: Jan 9 & 23, Feb 13 & 27, March 13 & 27, April 24. No need to book. 01327 350794

SureStart



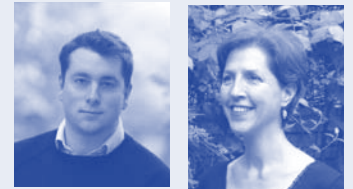
Northamptonshire
County Council

Professional performances coming your way



Fiori Musicali present - DIE SCHÖNE MÜLLERIN

Thomas Hobbs (tenor) & Maggie Cole (fortepiano) perform Schubert's song cycle.
Saturday 17th January, Sulgrave Manor, 7.30pm
Tickets £19 inc. interval champagne. 01327 360931 www.fiori-musicali.com



NORTHANTS TOURING ARTS



Details of all performances around the county can now be seen on the website: www.northantstouringarts.co.uk. If you live near the Daventry or Northampton border, it's worth checking to see what's on nearby, in addition to those in South Northants listed here. To request a brochure, join the mailing list or to find out how to go about promoting an event in your community please contact Kate Williams at Northants Touring Arts on 0870 850 5601 or email info@northantstouringarts.co.uk Phone local venues to check details and book tickets.

Big Mouth Piano Tales presents

THE SNOWMAN



Storyteller Frances M Lynch and pianist Mark Troop present this famous story with music, performed with minimal props and lots of help from the audience. The delightful story unfolds afresh in an astonishingly funny, lively and often moving performance, with many of the audience participating to act out the story and everyone dancing with the snowmen and singing the famous song, "I'm Walking in the Air". Suitable for ages 6-10 and their families. www.electricvoicetheatre.co.uk.

Culworth Village Hall, Saturday 10 January 4.00pm
Tickets £5 adults / £3.50 children under 16 / £14.50 family (4 people, max 2 adults) 01295 760855 / 768184

GRANDAD TOLD ME THESE....



Well, he didn't, but he could have! A mixture of traditional stories and songs for all the family performed by Pete Castle, poet, singer, guitarist. Stories and folk songs which, a few generations ago, everyone grew up knowing and which still speak to us. Some will be familiar, some not so; some have choruses to join in, some are just to listen to. Pete describes himself as a 'fireside teller' rather than a performance artist.

An informal family get together, not a 'best bib and tucker' theatre show! Suitable for all. www.petecastle.co.uk
Charwelton Village Hall, Saturday 24 January 7.00pm.
Tickets £6.50 / £4.50 children under 16 / £20.00 family.
01327 263857

BALLROOM DANCING WITH ALAN AXON OF ALL RUZZIT BUZZIT



A great party atmosphere, this fun, relaxed evening is suitable for all ages and abilities and is a great introduction to ballroom dancing. Beginning with the simple, easy to learn Quick Step you'll soon be dancing away to the big band sounds of Glen Miller. In the second half of the

evening there will be the opportunity to have a go at Latin American or 1940s Jitterbug or Jive. Suitable for adults of all ages and abilities. www.fortiesdance.co.uk

Eydon Village Hall, Saturday 7 February 7.30pm.
Tickets £7 / £6 children. 01327 261535 / 262350
Blakesley And Woodend Village Hall, Friday 24 April, 7.30pm
01327 860461

Helen Barrett presents

THE LADY LOVES JAZZ



A tribute to some of the most beautiful and well-loved singers and song-writers including Ella Fitzgerald, Gershwin, Nina Simone, Peggy Lee, Norah Jones and Eva Cassidy - standard and contemporary jazz songs that will ignite the spirit and warm the soul. Helen has performed for

royal audience members and prestigious government ministers. Enjoy an evening of charismatic vocals that will leave you humming happily all the way home. www.helenbarrett.co.uk

Eydon Village Hall, Saturday 4 April
01327 261535 / 0781 6462525

Exhibitions at The Michael Heseltine Gallery

The Spring season of exhibitions in the gallery at Chenderit School, the visual arts college in Middleton Cheney, starts with a superb touring exhibition from the Hayward Gallery, **Photographs from 1935-1936 by Walker Evans**, which is unexpectedly topical – the American Depression.

This is followed in March by a retrospective exhibition of **Dave McKean's** innovative mixed media graphic artwork, including original comic book art, book illustrations, photographs and album covers. His reputation was spread widely by the new graphic novels such as *Violent Cases*, *Arkham Asylum*, *Signal to Noise*, *The Sandman* and *Mr Punch*.

Well known local artist **Margot Bell** exhibits her prints in April alongside inventive sculptures by **Andrew Thompson**. Dates in the Events Calendar and further details in Chenderit's Spring brochure, both distributed with this issue of Arts News. Further copies available from Chenderit School or visit www.chenderit.northants.sch.uk for details of exhibitions, information on art courses and workshops.



Local artists please note the dates for the South Northants Selected Open Exhibition: 13th – 24th May. Works in all media can be submitted. Details will be available soon from John Childs, Head of Art and gallery curator at Chenderit School, 01295 711567.